

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An access selection system for a user terminal, said system providing simultaneous access to a plurality of radio based access networks of diverse access technologies, said radio access networks being adapted for connection to a common backbone network, the system comprising:

a plurality of access selection adapters, each one being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, and each one associated with a respective radio access network, and each access selection adapter structured for receiving radio access dependent information from its associated access network and for mapping said radio access dependent information to access technology independent status information; and

an access selector being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, and structured to interact with applications resident in the user terminal and to interact with each access selection adapter for selection of a radio access network based on an individual QoS profile representing an access technology independent information associated with each application and on said access technology independent status information,

wherein each access selection adapter is structured to translate messages and parameters received from the associated access network into

QoS parameters, and obtain access technology independent status information from the QoS parameters, and
wherein the access technology independent status information is a set of QoS related parameters relating to a traffic already existing in the respective access network, and the access technology independent information is a set of QoS related parameters defined as requirements associated with the application in the QoS profile.

2. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selection adapter is structured to implement a protocol spanning the access networks, the backbone network and the access selector to enable interoperation between an application and an end terminal connected to the backbone network and to make the access selection adapter transparent to the application.

3. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selection adapter comprises:

an access manager for handling the access to its associated radio access network, and for initiating and setting up a radio bearer; and

a translator for receiving as inputs said radio access dependent information and translating the radio access dependent information into QoS parameters.

4. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 3, wherein the radio access dependent information comprises any one or more of the following attributes: signal strength, signal quality, delay, service precedence, reliability, mean throughput and peak throughput, bit error ratio, control load parameters, media description parameters, packet format information, expected delay bound, packet loss ratio, bit error rate (BER), packet handling priority, packet loss ratio (PLR), and combinations thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the radio access dependent information further comprises one or both of cost and available bandwidth.

6. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the access selection adapter further comprises:

a QoS controller for receiving the QoS parameters from the translator and mapping the QoS parameters to the access technology independent status information.

7. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 2, wherein the protocol spanning the backbone network, the access networks, the

access selection adaptors, the access selector, and the applications is one or both of IPv4 and IPv6 protocol suites.

8. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the user terminal comprises a database containing configuration data for the applications.

9. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selector comprises means to execute link independent QoS related software processes for access procedures.

10. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 9, wherein said QoS related software processes comprise any one or more of an NSIS (Next Step In IP Signaling) process for radio access independent QoS signaling, a layer 2-link (L2-LS) status process for radio access independent link status information and acquisition, and an resource handling (RH) process for radio access independent resource handling.

11. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 10, wherein said QoS related software processes further comprise one or both of a radio access independent FHO (Fast Handover) process for handling of

mobility, and a CARD (Candidate Access Router) process for acquisition of candidate access routers.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selector is connected to the backbone network, and is connected to the access networks.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of providing simultaneous access to a plurality of radio based access networks from a moving system that comprises a user terminal with a plurality of diverse applications, the method comprising:

the user terminal signaling a QoS profile representing an access technology independent information which an application requires to an access selector at a start of said application, wherein the access selector is an entity separate from the user terminal;

signaling from each available radio access network via a corresponding individual access selection adapter, which is a network entity provided separate from the user terminal and which is associated with said available access network, to an access selector an access technology independent status information about that access network's resources;

the access selector identifying a radio access network to be used for the application by executing an access selection algorithm which identifies the radio access network selection based on the QoS parameters signaled in the QoS profile and the access technology independent status information of the available radio access networks received from the corresponding access selection adapters;

the access selector communicating the radio access network selection to the user terminal; and

the user terminal instructing the access selection adapter of the selected radio access network to set up a radio bearer in its associated radio access network,

wherein the step of signaling from each available radio access network the access technology independent status information comprises:

the access selection adapter receiving radio access dependent information from its corresponding radio access network; and

mapping the radio access dependent information to the access technology independent status information,

wherein the mapping step comprises:

the access selector adapter translating access technology dependent information into QoS parameters; and

obtaining access technology independent status information from the QoS parameters, and

wherein the access technology independent status information is a set of QoS related parameters relating to a traffic already existing in the corresponding radio access network, and the access technology independent information is a set of QoS related parameters defined as requirements associated with the application in the QoS profile.

15. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the radio access dependent information and the status information are signaled from the access selection adapter to the access selector at time intervals and when there is a change in any QoS parameters associated with the radio access network.

16. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein a change in the QoS parameter is signaled by a layer 2 trigger or an access technology trigger.

17. (Currently amended) The method for scheduling access to an access network from a mobile user terminal, the method comprising:

an access selector receiving a QoS profile representing an access technology independent information associated therewith from an application resident on the user terminal, the QoS profile specifying requirements of the

application and the access selector being a network entity and provided separate from the user terminal;

the access selector comparing the access technology independent information in the QoS profile with access technology independent status information received from access networks that are available to the user terminal;

the access selector storing the QoS profile in case said comparison reveals there is no access network available that fulfils the QoS profile;

the access selector monitoring the status information received from available radio access networks; and

the access selector repeating the comparison step and instructing the application to execute when the comparison indicates an access network is available that fulfils the QoS profile,

wherein the access technology independent status information of a radio access network is a set of QoS related parameters relating to a traffic already existing in the radio access network, and the access technology independent information is a set of QoS related parameters defined as requirements associated with the resident application in the QoS profile.

Claims 18-21 (Canceled)